

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING(S)

The attached replacement sheets for the Drawings replace the original sheets, Figs. 1-8, and contain amendments for the approval of the Examiner.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Objections were raised to the Drawings. Reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested.

New corrected Drawing sheets have been attached hereto for the approval of the Examiner, and it is respectfully submitted that these new corrected Drawings overcome the Drawing objections. In particular, the legend --RELATED ART-- has been added to Figs. 1, 1a, and 1b pursuant to the requirement of the Examiner. Reference numeral 45 has been added to Fig. 1a to overcome the objection of the Examiner, and reference numeral 9 has been added to Fig. 2 to overcome the objection of the Examiner. The second L3 (moving from left to right) has been changed to L2 in Fig. 3 to overcome the objection of the Examiner. Finally, Figs. 1-8 have been amended to comply with the PTO-948 attached to the Office Action.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error, but not to overcome the rejections in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Coppins, U.S. Patent No. 918,422. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hachfield, U.S. Patent No. 845,778. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lunz, WO 93/17251. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunz and further in view of Hofmann et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,490,732. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunz and further in view of Jakob, WO 85/03749. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunz. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide, in part, for, "[a] wheel bearing unit embodied as an angular contact ball bearing with a central axis, ... a first pairing formed from a first one of the first rows of balls and from a first one of the second rows of balls, each row of the first pairing being preloaded against a second pairing formed from a second one of the first rows

of balls and from a second one of the second rows of balls, each of the pairings having a ball cage to guide the balls of both its rows, ..." Antecedent basis for the feature of amended independent claim 1 providing that each of the pairings has a ball cage to guide the balls of both its rows is found in the specification, for example, on page 17, lines 20-23, and in the Drawings, for example, in Fig. 6.

In contrast to independent claim 1 requiring "an outer ring assembly extending around all the balls together radially on the outside", (emphasis supplied), Coppins discloses a boxing or female section 2 separating two cups 10 enclosing bearing balls 9, (column 1, line 45 to column 2, line 79; Figs. 1, 4). In addition, it appears that Coppins discloses two bearings enclosed within housings 3 and 5, (column 1, line 45 to column 2, line 67; Fig. 1). In contrast, claim 1 provides for "[a] wheel bearing unit", not two wheel bearing units.

With regard to Hachfield, it also discloses two ball enclosing bearing sleeves 10 separated by a box 2, (column 2, lines 64-68; Fig. 1). In contrast again, independent claim 1 calls for an outer ring assembly and a wheel bearing unit, whereas Hachfield appears to disclose two outer ring assemblies and two wheel bearings.

The feature of independent claim 1 of balls of two rows being guided by a single ball cage appears not to be disclosed, taught, or suggested by either Coppins or Hachfield since neither of them appears to teach a bearing with ball cages. With regard to Lunz, although it appears to teach a bearing with ball cages, Fig. 2 in Lunz only appears to disclose that each row of balls has a separate cage 7.

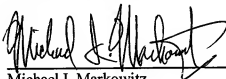
Since each of claims 2-17 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 2-17 is allowable for at least the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

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RCF/MIM:ns/lac

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael I. Markowitz", is written over a horizontal line.

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